



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Jim “Luigi” Schmitt
Chairman, Personnel Committee

March 16, 2007
For Immediate Release
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SUPERVISOR SCHMITT RESPONDS TO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS’ 2008-2012 COMPENSATION

Department of Audit study recommends adjustment for Supervisors and County Executive

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Jim “Luigi” Schmitt, Chairman of the County Board’s Personnel Committee, has released the following statement in reference to the County’s compensation of elected officials:

“The results of a study completed by the Milwaukee County Department of Audit show the average pay for similar County Legislators nationwide increased more than 45% from 2002 through 2007. A forty-five percent increase is, of course, out of the question. But a modest adjustment of pay for the 2008-2012 term of the County Executive and the 19 County Board members is appropriate to consider. In light of the reasonable increases given to the approximately 5,500 employees in the County, it’s fair to propose a sensible increase in pay for the Supervisory and Executive positions in Milwaukee County government.”

“Since 2001, as the cost of living increased 13.6%, the County approved modest annual raises for all union and non-represented employees, with the exception of the County Executive and the Board of Supervisors. Prior to the 2004 session, Supervisors voted to reduce their pay to year 2000 levels and freeze compensation for these elected officials indefinitely. We also provided leadership in Wisconsin by being the first County Board to downsize, going from 25 to 19 members prior to the 2004 election. As a result, each Supervisor now represents approximately 50,000 constituents. Prior to 2004, they represented about 38,000 residents.”

“If we don’t look at a reasonable increase now, our pay will be frozen at year 2000 levels through 2012. I think a modest wage increase for these 20 positions is fair. In the coming days, I’m going to discuss this issue with my colleagues on the County Board. I hope we can reach a consensus that acknowledges the Department of Audit’s recommendations while respecting Milwaukee County’s taxpayers.”

Elected officials are prohibited by law from raising their pay during their current term in office. Any increase would not take effect until the Supervisors’ next term begins in April 2008.

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